



University of the Pacific Scholarly Commons

Emeriti Society Oral History Collection

University Archives

3-16-2011

Blaney, Robert Oral History Interview

Gwenn Browne

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/esohc>

Recommended Citation

Browne, Gwenn, "Blaney, Robert Oral History Interview" (2011). *Emeriti Society Oral History Collection*. 71.
<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/esohc/71>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Emeriti Society Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact mgibney@pacific.edu.

FACULTY EMERITI INTERVIEWS
UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC ARCHIVES



Robert Blaney

Professor of Religious Studies, 1966 to 1996 and
Director of Pacific Center for the Study of Social Issues 1966-1976.

March 16, 2011

By Gwenn Browne

Transcribed by Kelly Gerhold, University of the Pacific,
Department of Special Collections, Library

Subjects: Review of courses offered by Religious Studies Department, Involvement in development of the University's Faculty Governance, Relationships with former students, staff and faculty, and Early ties between the Methodist Church and Pacific.

UOP ARCHIVES FACULTY EMERITI INTERVIEWS

Gwenn Browne: It's the 16th of March, I am Gwen Browne, and I am going to interview Robert Blaney, and the interview is being conducted in the Emeriti Office in the library. You ready?

Robert Blaney: Yes, I'm ready, thank you.

BROWNE: Ok! What years did you serve at the university, and what were your official titles?

BLANEY: I was here from 1966 to 1996, thirty years professor, in the Religious Studies Department, which was then called Bible and Religious Education. I was also for 10 years Director of the Pacific Center for the Study of Social Issues, funded by the California Scottish Rite Foundation which they called "The Great American Fundamental's Program. The Center was governed by a Board consisting of the chairs of the Political Science, History and Philosophy Departments as well as the Deans of the Schools of Education, the Library, and Admissions. The Center provided an annual grant of 10,000 each year. I had a graduate assistant, and was able to teach a graduate seminar each Fall and Spring. We had scholarships for outstanding seniors, and for teachers at Delta Junior College. The Center also enabled us to sponsor a series of annual lectures called the Clausen Lectures which brought outstanding scholars to speak at UOP. President Burns and Phil Wogaman along with Elmer Clausen set the Center up. .

BROWNE: Ok. Where were you before, and did you have to move to come to Pacific?

BLANEY: I was serving in two different United Methodist parishes in Los Angeles, as a member of the Southern/California United Methodist Church (UMC). For two years, I was the pastor of Brentwood UMC and ¼ time director of the UCLA Wesley Foundation where I offered a Graduate Seminar. For the next two years I was pastor of the Los Feliz UMC located in West Hollywood SWELL as the Lead pastor of the Northeast Group Ministry, a consortium of 5 small UMC's in the Hollywood area. We worked with the gay community to establish a Council of Religion and the Homophile as well as started a Teenage nightclub at the UMC in downtown LA, I grew up in Los Angeles attending LA High and UCLA. I then obtained a Masters in Divinity and Theology Doctorate in Social Ethics from Boston University School of Theology. After I successfully defended my dissertation, my major professor Dean Muelder received a phone call, from Phil Wogaman at UOP asking if he knew anyone who could teach Christian Social Ethics and Christianity and Communism. My dissertation was on "Karl Marx and his Criticism of Religion." I was interviewed by President Burns, the Board of Directors of the Pacific Center for Social Issues and the Bible and Religious Education Department faculty and chair. I moved to Stockton from L.A. and actually, I don't think I'd ever been on the campus before.

BROWNE: Aha!

BLANEY: (laughter)

BROWNE: They used to hold UMC Methodist Annual Conference here every summer here.

BLANEY: I was not a member of Ca/Nev Annual Conference. I was a member of the Southern California/Arizona Conference in Los Angeles until I came to UOP.

BROWNE: Oh, that's right. Ok, what were your first impressions of the city of Stockton and the people?

BLANEY: Well, I was very impressed, I had known Phil Wogaman, who was my predecessor in the Department and a friend from Boston University School of Theology. I was very impressed with the campus, it reminded me and it reminded me a lot of the Ivy League schools, particularly Harvard.

BROWNE: So you liked the brick, huh?

BLANEY: Yeah, I liked the brick! And it was really, I think you put this like this, but it was an Old Boys' Network. I mean, every member of our department, and there were six of them, practically every member except Kathleen Shannon, were graduates of the same Seminary that I went to, and they were all men.

BROWNE: Ah, yes.

BLANEY: Except for Kathleen Shannon.

BROWNE: Ok. Was there someone at Pacific who was especially helpful in your initial orientation?

BLANEY: I think, yes, particularly Arthur Maynard, who was the chair at that time, and, Rabbi Rosenberg, who became a very close friend of mine and was a member of our department.

BROWNE: Well, as a faculty member from the same time, I was very fond of Bernie Rosenberg, and I still remember the arena registration, where the word came in that he had died the night before.

BLANEY: Yeah.

BROWNE: The students didn't understand why the faculty were going to pieces. Ok. Describe the changes that you observed in the curriculum during the years you were here.

BLANEY: Well, when I started here, everybody in the department, including Larry Meredith who was, came the same time I did...

BROWNE: Larry was Dean of the Chapel.

BLANEY: Larry was Dean of the Chapel, but he also had a quarter-time appointment in the department. At any rate, all of us had to teach Old and New Testament. It was no longer required, but it was an elective—or maybe it was required?

BROWNE: They were required to take one religious studies class, I don't think it was...

BLANEY: Yeah, one religion class, yeah. And the Old and New Testament courses were which only two units, but there was a lot of work.... I'm sorry, what was the question?

BROWNE: The changes in curriculum.

BLANEY: Oh, the changes! Yeah! And, at any rate, and at that time we were called Bible and Religious Education, and we also had the Recreation housed in our Department, but later became the Recreation Department in the PE Department. They trained directors for the YMCA and Summer Camps.

BROWNE: Changes in your Department?

BLANEY: Yeah. Right, yeah. At any rate, and then as the '60s wore on, we brought in, students into our departmental meetings, and they had a vote, and I had a graduate assistant who was also, Stan Krueger, who was a member at that time of the department, and we, against the wishes really of the department chair, voted to change the name to Religious Studies, to bring it more into the academic area. And we also expanded our course offerings, and that's one of the things that I really liked about Pacific. We were able to offer special topics, which then eventually could become courses, and that's how Biomedical Ethics became a regular course, and Human Sexuality and Christianity, and so the department over the years I think changed dramatically, I would say. And people in Religious Ed, as Walt Nieburg and Kathleen Shannon were, had to retool, because we no longer had a Masters in Religious Education. We eliminated that degree eventually. And also we became much more involved, it seems to me, with the entire university, with the I&I program, and we had a large part in planning the I&I Major Program. As I recall, we had a Humanities part of that where we had the whole freshman class meeting in the chapel, actually, for the Humanities portion of that, and worked with other faculty. The other thing about the I & I program, which I thought was incredible, was it allowed us to branch out and to teach with other faculty. For instance, Sally Miller and I did a course on the history and theology of non-violence, and I did another course with a guy in Drama on sexuality and religion in drama, and another guy in the School of Business on business ethics, etc. etc. So.

BROWNE: Ok. What was your perception of your task to enhance the educational and academic programs and mission of the university, and what were the primary challenges?

BLANEY: I think the challenges were, where are we here?

BROWNE: The last one on the next one.

BLANEY: Oh, ok, yeah!

BROWNE: You don't have the same questions. Ok. Well, now, move the questions over.

BLANEY: I felt, as the university evolved, that one of the things that, the primary challenges were the influx of the Community Involvement Program, which I was very much in support of, and our faculty member at that time, John Diamond, actually led a group around the tower and brought about the, at least, the inception of that program, although he was hired away from us, but he was an African American, and...

BROWNE: He was the first director of CIP, though.

BLANEY: Yeah, he was the first director. So that brought an influx of students, some of whom majored in our department, and were very poor, had very poor grasp of English. And I remember one young

woman, in fact, who's gone on for a Ph.D., can't remember her name, but—at any rate, and eventually went to Seminary, but it was a real challenge. And then we had a Vietnamese Roman Catholic priest who came in for a Master's degree—we had a Master's program at that time—and then, I had a student, Kam Di Yang, who was a Hmong refugee from Cambodia., and he has now gotten a doctorate and is in a Methodist ministry. At any rate, that was one of the challenges. Another one of the challenges was just the evolution of the academic governance system. I recall we used to meet at Anderson Y for lunch forums, and Herb Reinelt and Larry Walker and, I don't know if you were part of that or not, but...

BROWNE: Well, it, I went to one of those forums—

BLANEY: Oh, ok!

BROWNE: --when I was being interviewed on the campus!

BLANEY: Alright, and this was the beginning of academic governance. I recall, I think it was Larry Walker, who was in our department. He put together a chart and talked about having academic governance. When I first came here, there was a council of department chairs, and that was it, and they met regularly, and, at any rate, so. And then, another challenge for me, it seemed to me, was being a part of academic governance, principally through the professional relations committee...

BROWNE: I was just going to say, I remember you were the first chair of Professional Relations.

BLANEY: 1968. And then, one of my mentors in Los Angeles, a Methodist minister, Ted Palmquist, when I arrived, was also a Regent. And I recall, and I don't know who came up with the idea, I know I was a part of it, but we came up with this idea of Developmental Leave. And I remember appearing, going up to the Board of Regents, and lobbying for that particular program, and then being asked to leave as they discussed it, but. (laughter)

BROWNE: Discussed it, yes.

BLANEY: And eventually, I look back on my career and think that that was one of the things that I helped to accomplish, that, the Developmental Leave, and took one of the first ones of those, in fact. And then, in the Professional Relations Committee, working with other faculty to ensure the rights of faculty, that they were not screwed by the administration! And then, as time went on, I felt a primary challenge was the change in our presidents, from McCaffrey to Atchley, and the change from our Academic Vice President, I recall.

BROWNE: We went through a lot of Academic Vice Presidents.

BLANEY: Yeah! Cliff Hand, and, um.

BROWNE: Well, you were here for Sam Meyer, weren't you?

BLANEY: No, I wasn't here for Sam Meyer.

BROWNE: Oh. Ok.

BLANEY: No, actually, Jacoby was the D—yeah.

BROWNE: Yes, you were here before I was, and, yeah.

BLANEY: Jacoby was the Dean of COP then. But, Subiando was just incredibly supportive of the faculty.

BROWNE: At least verbally.

BLANEY: (laughter) And, then we came to administrators like Phil...

BROWNE: Gilbertson?

BLANEY: Phil Gilbertson, and DeRosa, who, the year I retired, they tried to eliminate the Religious Studies department.

BROWNE: I remember distinctly.

BLANEY: And, so the first year I retired, I was kind of leading the charge against that, and getting alums together, and finally, Cliff Crummy, who was a benefactor of the university, called Gilbertson—called DeRosa and said, you know, he was going to withdraw his funding unless it changed, so, DeRosa called me to apologize, and Gilbertson finally did, but the other serendipitous thing was, I was also president of the Emeriti Society and had to meet with Gilbertson on behalf of the Emeriti, so. And then, I guess another challenge was the Mentor Program, and you and I had a part in that, and doing that, and...

BROWNE: And they're still doing pretty much the same thing in—

BLANEY: They are, ok.

BROWNE: --Pacific Seminar, 3, it's not, yeah.

BLANEY: Oh, ok, yeah. Well, BROWNE and I put together a pilot program on ethics, and I really appreciated teaching in that area, as well.

BROWNE: 'Kay. We can skip these questions because neither of us was an administrator except department chair. Who were the individuals at Pacific that were most memorable and why?

BLANEY: Actually, I was a department chair, but.

BROWNE: I said, we were.

BLANEY: Oh! Oh right, yeah.

BROWNE: We both had that, but.

BLANEY: Ok, yeah.

BROWNE: There's no Deans in this room.

BLANEY: No, no. Oh yeah. Who were the individuals who were most memorable and why? I mentioned Subiando. BLANEY Burns was very memorable because he had supported the Pacific Center for the Study of Social Issues, which was an interdisciplinary center, and the courses I taught were also co-listed with Political Science and Philosophy, and that went on for 10 years until Burns died, actually, and Cliff Hand was the Academic Vice President at that time, and.

BROWNE: You are forgetting Alistair McCone.

BLANEY: Alistair McCone. (laughter) So he was another one.

BROWNE: Just thought I'd throw a name in!

BLANEY: No—Yeah! Forgot about him, but. At any rate, yeah, he was not too memorable. And I appreciated other colleagues as Gwenn Browne and, also Larry Meredith and I were very close colleagues, and Rabbi Rosenburg in particular, but—and I already mentioned Joe Subiando...

BROWNE: Yeah. Yeah. Let's move on—

BLANEY: Yeah, move on.

BROWNE: And you can characterize the students, we've got a whole list of people. Students, faculty, administrators, staff, regents—it's a general characterization—alumni and donors.

BLANEY: Sure.

BROWNE: Any of the people that you can remember, and, you don't have to use names, just say, you know.

BLANEY: Ok, yeah, well I really remember some of the students as being very outstanding. One of them more recently was honored at, Will Kiame, who was honored at the Athletic Foundation this last year, and he was an outstanding student. Very, a student who knew who he was. And then, the numerous students that we had in the (premier.....program) who are now out there in the field, and one that I'm most proud of is now Regent, Laura Beth Sawdon. And she was just very green coming in from Sparks, Nevada, and came through our program and then went to Seminary, and is now a minister in Lafayette, California, but also one of the newest Regents. As far as faculty, again, I think the members of the department who were very supportive, and, again, particularly Arthur Maynard. And then, administrators, I think if we're, I mentioned Subiando. And the secretaries in the AVP's office very helpful but I don't remember their names.

BROWNE: But, at the beginning? Like, Werner?

BLANEY: No, the one we just saw.

BROWNE: Oh, that's Debbie. Mellick

BLANEY: Debbie, and another, Kitty Gilbert.

BLANEY: And then we had some wonderful Religious Studies Department secretaries—Alice Kreck was our secretary for many years.

BROWNE: And she to the Vice President's Office (when he died.)

BLANEY: And then she went to the Vice President's office, and Carol Troutner with whom I had some problems, but (laughter) she also went to the VP's office! Of the Regents, Dr Ted Palmquist, and then Bishop Tibbet, but I didn't know him all that well. The alumni and donors, I remember particularly Iva Colliver, who was still alive and still very active while I was here, until she died, and then Skipper Yee and his wife, Lois Lee, and then Cliff Crummy, whom I had known in the past. In Faculty Governance, I enjoyed being on the Professional Relations Committee., especially when I was Chair of the Committee which put me on the Academic Council Executive Committee, and that was fun, with Don Dunns was chair as well as others. Working relations, how would I describe working relations between faculty and administrators, generally...?

BROWNE: Yeah, the first question is generally, and then what was your experience?

BLANEY: Ok. Generally, I think, as time went on, we had a particularly great relationship with Subiando, and somewhat with McCaffrey, I thought the working relationship went pretty well, as far as I was concerned. And we had a variety of Deans, also, at the College of the Pacific.

BROWNE: Yes. That tradition has continued.

BLANEY: Yeah! (laughter) And I think the Dean that I most appreciated was Bob Benedetti. And, while he was supportive of the department, he was also supportive of the humanities in general. I had a pretty good relationship with Roy Whitaker, although I think my stint on the COP council was a, mas o menos (laughter) with Whitaker. And, let's see. How would I describe my working relationships with faculty and administration—that's what we just did, isn't it?

BROWNE: Yeah, they overlap so we could continue the questioning.

BLANEY: Yeah, and my first memory of Dean Jacoby, as a matter of fact, was how critical he was of the inflation of grades, and he actually kept a chart of our grades.

BROWNE: Yeah. He had just, he was leaving as I came, but I still saw those charts.

BLANEY: Yeah. And then I remember, also, the registrar.

BROWNE: Well the first, Ellen Deering?

BLANEY: Ellen Deering! And she, if you didn't get your grades in when they were supposed to be in, she'd give you a call! (laughter)

BROWNE: You did do things the way Miss Deering wanted them done!

BLANEY: Yes, you did do them the way she insisted on. And the other person I remember, was a part of the library administration, The one who was our secretary for so long for the Emeriti Society.

BROWNE: Oh, Darleen Hall?

BLANEY: No...

BROWNE: Pearl Piper.

BLANEY: Pearl Piper, yeah.

BROWNE: I got there.

BLANEY: And then the other administrator was the Dean of the Library when I came here...

BROWNE: Jim Riddles.

BLANEY: Jim Riddles, yeah. And so, during the Vietnam protests on campus, he was very much a part of that, and so was I along with other faculty. I remember being outside the library for a rally, and—oh, I forgot AVP Jack Bevin who an excellent AVP and very supportive of the faculty. . Anyway, during the protest, some football player had gone up on the third or fourth floor and threw eggs on us, and Bevin raced up to confront him! (laughter) and chewed him out.

BROWNE: Ok. Describe programs that you had been involved in, or had an interest in, that you feel were particularly significant. I actually think you covered some of that.

BLANEY: Yeah, the I&I program I think was just incredible, and the interdisciplinary program which you and I taught, the Mentor 3 which was very inspirational to me, and I think it went very well. The other program that I was involved informing, was with Kurt Redden, who was Vice President of....

BROWNE: Development.

BLANEY: Yes Development. He, came to me with an idea called the Bishop Scholars Program, and so I arranged for Kurt to get together with our United Methodist Bishop Mel Talbert. The two of us met for lunch at the Hilton in Pleasanton, and the Bishop Scholars Program was born. —Bishop Talbert insisted that he didn't want his name attached the program.

BROWNE: It's still going.

BLANEY: It's still going, and I feel that was really significant. At, because at that time I was also a chair of the UMC Cal/Nev Annual Conference Committee on Higher Education and Campus Ministry. The other thing I was very involved in while I was here was the campus ministry. I was supportive of those who were in campus ministry including the Wesley Club headed by Rev. Wes Brown Abd Anderson Y headed both of which I was a very important part of and then there was a student who had a double major in Communications and Religious Studies named Mike Traina—

BROWNE: Traina.

BLANEY: --who came up with the idea of diversity week, and I think that's, to celebrate diversity, and we cooperated with Mike and brought some significant people here for lectureships, and we participated in

the Gay Pride parade, etc. etc., and I'm almost sure I was the first faculty advisor for the GOPT group, I mean, it was just the GOP...

BROWNE: Yeah, I think when it started, nobody knew []

BLANEY: No, no, right, but I—and then, Sally Miller took over, but. So I was trying to be very supportive of those issues.

BROWNE: Ok. Were there controversies that emerged during your period—

BLANEY: Yes. (laughter)

BROWNE: It says, 'describe them.'

BLANEY: One of them was about the course I taught on Human Sexuality and Christianity. And I would always advise the AVP, and at the time this happened it was Cliff Hand, that I was going to be showing sexually explicit educational films from the, at that time it was called the, well, I think it was still called the Sex and Drug Forum at (Clyde?) United Methodist Church, but maybe—and then, eventually became some kind of a university in the Bay Area. At any rate, and I always had students say, I told the students that if they would, when they signed up for the course, that I would be using these, and if it was going to bother them maybe they should consider taking another course. And it was always over-enrolled. At any rate—and then when I showed them, I said that too—well, I had one very conservative football player who was Campus Crusade for Christ or something, and he went to the president because he was enraged that I had shown these films, and. So I was called in by...

BROWNE: Stan McCaffrey.

BLANEY: Stan McCaffrey! And I said, well, you know, I cleared with Cliff Hand, and these are for educational purposes, and these are volunteers, and they are not pornographic, and, interestingly enough, many are quite, I think 10 years later, this kid, now a grown-up, well, you know. Anyway, he came in and talked to the chair of our department at that time, which was Gill Schedler, and apologized. He never apologized to me. At any rate. So, I think that was the worst controversy—the other one was, I was teaching New Testament at 7:30 AM in a summer session, over in Wendell Phillips Auditorium, and all of a sudden, the Dean, Stedman from Conservatory of Music, came rushing in and wanted to take over the room, and I refused, and so he and I got into a competition because I said, you know, "I'm teaching class, and I'm scheduled to be in here." But anyway, that was another interesting encounter. I think that was about the worst. (laughter)

BROWNE: Those were the days.

BLANEY: They were the days.

BROWNE: Ok. Describe the most significant achievements during your tenure, not necessarily your achievements but things that, the achievements to enhance Pacific.

BLANEY: Well, number 1, I think, the Academic Council, definitely.

BROWNE: Yes.

BLANEY: And that blossomed and bloomed, still is continuing to work, and then Professional Relations, and out of that, I was never on the grievance committee, but I think that came about as a part of that, and I was involved in some of the sticky things between schools and faculty. And then, I did mention the Bishop Scholars Program, and then I think the innovative courses that I introduced and are still being taught, mainly Human Sexuality and Christianity and Biomedical Ethics. But the achievements that also enhanced Pacific, I think we tried to have at our annual conference, Religious Studies lunches, and they were very well attended. And also I tried to introduce new administrators, and actually introduced DeRosa before he even became president officially, at our annual conference, and tried to encourage administrators to strengthen ties between the Methodist Church and the University, of which we are still...

BROWNE: It's not one of the official questions, but I know you went through the period where, when you came, it was very close to the Methodist Church—

BLANEY: Yeah, it was, yeah.

BROWNE: --and there were Bishops on the, and then...

BLANEY: There was a, Bishops on,—yeah. And then there were some Bishops who never attended, and so for a while it was very tenuous in effect. When we didn't have any Dean of the Chapel or Chaplain, one of the things I would always ask the President when he would come to our faculty meetings was, you know, "What are you doing, about getting a Chaplain?" and, I was always trying to push for better relationship, and I think it is getting better now. We're still officially part of the Methodist Church. The other thing that happened, and I don't know whether you were aware of this or not, but when Subiando was AVP, he and I were talking, and we discovered that there was a faculty, uh, Outstanding Teacher Award. I think it was \$1000, that was still in effect—but there was also, at one time, a Methodist Faculty Teaching Award, which both you and I have received. Anyway, in going back in the history, I discovered that the Methodists originally started the faculty one, and then they forgot about it, so Subiando and I worked it out so that we would have second one identified as the Methodist one! So, the two, those two. And then the Eberhardt Teachers Scholar Award, I think, I felt, I didn't have a part in putting that together, but was recipient one time, and felt that was—I think, in general, rewarding faculty, either through developmental leaves, or encouraging them to do more research, or take advantage of some of these humanities seminars, at one time we had somebody in the Academic Vice President's office who was in charge of...

BROWNE: Well, they still have the—

BLANEY: Oh, and Teacher and Senate Awards! That's the other thing that happened, and I think that's a positive thing. I guess—are they still going on?

BROWNE: Yes, but, I mean, it was very important in our day because we were not at all well-paid!

BLANEY: No, we weren't. No! Oh, yeah, I know!

BROWNE: And so, so these things were exceptionally valuable and—

BLANEY: No, I had to take the cut in pay, from being in the ministry, Methodist Ministry, to come here.

BROWNE: And we all know how well-paid ministers are!

BLANEY: (laughter) I know!

BROWNE: Ok, let's go on to talk about the students. Describe your contact with students...

BLANEY: I had a lot of contact with students, because I was one of the advisors for the pre-ministerial students, and also, when I was Chair of the department on and off, all of the majors. And I had some outstanding students who were majors. I recall a couple of them, John Wortham who was the brightest student I ever had in my life. —

BLANEY: No, John Worthum, um—

BROWNE: His father was an executive pastor at Clyde.

BLANEY: Hmm, that's a different person.

BROWNE: That's a different person, ok, sorry about that. Back to our interview!

BLANEY: That's ok! No, that's alright. No, John Worthum was a double major in French and Religious Studies, went on for a Masters degree in Business, and another one in Economics, and eventually got a Ph.D. in Social Ethics, and he's now running a—he's the chief financial officer for a non-profit in Boston that was the principal group that sued Nestles over this milk thing—

BROWNE: Ah, yes, I had...

BLANEY: --and more recently sued Coca-Cola, I think, for putting on their water bottles that they were from the spring. Anyway, he's—and then the other one is David Summers...

BROWNE: I remember Dave.

BLANEY: Who was another outstanding student, went on for a Ph.D. in Sociology at Yale, had a brief career with I think one of, AT&T, and then decided to go into the ministry, and is now a very successful minister in Tempe, Arizona. I've been very close to David, and still keep in touch with some students that I had way back then, and would love to connect with Will Kime...

BROWNE: Yeah!

BLANEY: But, uh. And by the way, another person I forgot to mention was BLANEY Silva.

BROWNE: Oh, yeah. The Catholic priest.

BLANEY: The Catholic priest, who's now back in Stockton, by the way. (laughter) I ran into him recently, but... And if you did (teacher advise?) did that affect your perspec—yes, definitely had an effect on my

perspective. And having gay students in some of my classes, and some whose fathers were ministers but they weren't out to them, and, or who—students (who) weren't out, period, and some of the problems that they had, but also students in general. And I've already talked about Mike Traina and some other students and their activities. We also, I did a Christian-Marxist dialogue tour in East Germany in 1971, I believe it was, and had a number—about 12 students who went on that, and that was a very good experience, three week experience, in Eastern Europe with the students.

BROWNE: Ok. How did the student attitudes change while you were at Pacific, and did you adapt? The answer is: since you survived, I will take the adaptation as a plus!

BLANEY: (laughter) I did survive! And, one of the things when I was in Seminar, they said you should never be shockable, so for the most part I wasn't, although when I was brought in on some things that happened between students, particularly pertaining to gay students, I couldn't believe at how destructive some of these students could be to one another and not even realize it. But also there were some wonderful opportunities too. But I think they did change, and particularly I remember when we first came, there was a freshman camp down at [] and that—

BROWNE: The Anderson Y ran...

BLANEY: The Anderson Y! And the director was, at that time, Stan Stevens and then Ted Adams later on, but. And we would give them a tour of South Stockton, in a bus, and a large part of my community involvement, in fact, was to the Metro Ministry, as you know, and South Stockton parish. So, I think students' attitudes did change, and in general I think became more, well, progressive or liberal.

BROWNE: Yeah, but we also went through a period of where they were terribly focused on their own personal professional training.

BLANEY: That's true.

BROWNE: They didn't want to be...

BLANEY: No, that's true, and I would get, in my Biomedical Ethics class, pre-professional students, particularly Pharmacy, and would discover through essays, etc., that some of the students' parents had insisted that they go into pharmacy. They didn't want to go into pharmacy, or dentistry, or whatever.

BROWNE: Ok. The next set of questions is about progress and evolution. What issues were you involved in that stood out in your mind as important to the growth and development of Pacific? And then they want to know where the energy came from.

BLANEY: Ok, well I think I've already talked about some of that. The formation of the Academic Council and the evolving of academic governance, and it kept evolving at the insistence of people like Browne and Herb Reinelt and Larry Walker and Don Dunns and others. And, the Community Involvement Program, I thought that was an incredible thing that happened, where we could bring students culturally or economically deprived on campus and provide scholarships, and it's had its ups and downs. The other thing that I felt evolved while I was here, particularly when Callison College was here in the

Clusters, but even after that, it was the Office of International Studies, and I became very supportive of that program as well, and actually taught in Vienna, not exactly as a part of it, but in a European Studies Institute. And I was very supportive of the directors of that program, and I think it's gone through a number of evolutions, but I've always been very committed to international issues.

BROWNE: Well, the questions include: did Pacific meet your expectations? What did you expect when you came, and what did you get?

BLANEY: Yeah, I think it exceeded my expectations, particularly—and I've mentioned this before, but—the possibility for coming up with new and different programs, and having them as special topics, and then being able to develop them into regular courses for the most part. The one I did on ethics and men's issues never made it as a regular course, but that's how Mike Traina became involved. But some of the others did. And then interaction with faculty. I recall, as a matter of fact, when I was hospitalized for a whole month, I couldn't believe the support I got from people like you and everybody under the sun! And I had not expected that.

BROWNE: Well, now that's something that I think Pacific has always been good at, the—if somebody can't make a class, or if they're in the hospital or whatever, everything gets covered!

BLANEY: Yeah! No! And I had another instance where we had a Colliver lecture—combined Colliver lecture, and...

BROWNE: Pope John XXIII?

BLANEY: Pope John—maybe it was Pope John XXIII. Anyway. And that concluded, and we had a reception over at my house, and then my wife announced that she had booked a cruise. This was in 1960-something. And I said, "Well I've got a lunch engagement with the Bishop and his wife," and she said "Well, I canceled that." And I said, "Well, I've got a class tomorrow." And she said, "Well, Larry Meredith is taking that." Or, I know, when I had my heart operation, you took one of my classes, etc. So we covered for each other. That's one of the perceptions, really, that I have of Pacific.

BROWNE: Ok. The questions are asking about the external perception of the academic quality. Has that external perception changed, and in what way? You're probably well-placed because you did not stay in Stockton. Some of us who have stayed in Stockton may not know.

BLANEY: Yeah, no. I'm not sure it has, because I've tried to encourage students in the Santa Cruz, greater Santa Cruz area, and they've never heard of Pacific.

BROWNE: Yeah. It is sort of surprising when you encounter where people *haven't* heard about us.

BLANEY: Oh yeah! Or, when I,—as a matter of fact, growing up in Los Angeles and going through the school system there in UCLA, etc., I frankly had never heard of UOP until I was interviewed here. And I, you know, I was familiar with the UCs, but I think it's getting better. And, they are, through the alumni office, I think, expanding the perception. But when I explain to people that we have campuses in San Francisco and in...

BROWNE: Sacramento.

BLANEY: Sacramento, etc., and that we are in fact a university, some of them are very surprised. On the other hand, if we have alums, and we do have alums all over the place, and there are some in Santa Cruz and some in our local church, then they're, they know about it. And particularly retired clergy, who went here—Paul Sweet, you probably never knew Paul Sweet, but others. So anyway.

BROWNE: Ok. What contributions do you feel Pacific has made to the local communities? What was the community's response to these efforts?

BLANEY: Well, again, I think this Community Involvement Program has been very, very important, and I think got us out in the community, and at least initially the involvement of the students in this, in the—oh, what's it called? Well, anyway, we had a, when I first came here we had a Stockton, what's it called, any—some kind of Stockton parish, and that evolved into the Metro Ministry. We had students involved in Metro Ministry, didn't we?

BROWNE: Yes.

BLANEY: Yeah, that's what I thought, yeah. Trying to remember.

BROWNE: I think they were the same kids that were in Anderson Y, but, yes, we did have...

BLANEY: Oh, yeah, no, I was going to say, Anderson Y always, it seemed to me, was reaching out to the community. And I don't know whether we have tutors or not, but...

BROWNE: Oh yeah, we still have them.

BLANEY: I thought we did, yeah.

BROWNE: Yeah, I mean, the university took over the Anderson Y, but everything that the Y used to do is still being done by the university.

BLANEY: Yeah, yeah.

BROWNE: They finally got sick of us owing them money.

BLANEY: Let's see, you have Town and Gown relationships in Stockton—improved, declined, or stayed the same? I, you know, I retired in '96, so I haven't been around that much. My impression is that they've improved, but I could be wrong.

BROWNE: I think you're right.

BLANEY: Yeah.

BROWNE: Ok, we are reaching the end—

BLANEY: Oh, yeah!

BROWNE: --and the question is, what have we not covered?

BLANEY: Well, one of the things we haven't covered, and I actually asked a question in our luncheon about Humanities programs in general, but my impression is that the Humanities have been decimated. And I did go up and speak to the Provost about my impression, and that they, in fact, had eliminated German, etc. etc. And so I'm excited about this, I don't know, this accelerated English—or Humanities program or whatever they're talking about. And the other thing is the decimation of the Religious Studies faculty. I think we have maybe 3 full-time people there now, and when I came we had 6 faculty. And then, this is just a personal observation, but, and really is probably not too important, but the lack of any ordained person other than the Chaplain, because when I came—

BROWNE: Well, and we're between Chaplains now, but--

BLANEY: That's what I heard.

BROWNE: --That's where this hits the road, so to speak, is we're planning the retirement dinner. We have no one to do an invocation. And [] can remember when every third person you met on this campus was ordained! And we...

BLANEY: Oh yeah! No, I counted, we had Art Maynard, and Walt Nyburg and Kathleen Shannon, myself, John Diamond, Herb Reinelt, and Nietmann, both in Philosophy, and then a guy in English, and somebody in Math, and then Larry Jackson.

BROWNE: Well, and Don Smiley!

BLANEY: Don Smiley!

BROWNE: Smiley, and, you know, that's the Admissions Office! He was ordained!

BLANEY: No, that's right, yeah, no. And you know, we don't need to have a lot, but it's, it has changed considerably, so.

BROWNE: Well. They want me to be interviewed, but I will add this to your interview, but, do you remember the big fight about the Christmas dinner that the women's group wanted to have?

BLANEY: Oh.

BROWNE: And, you know, could we have drinks? That was the big issue, and they moved out to the airport, and the older faculty were still insisting that they were a Methodist institution!

BLANEY: I do remember that! Yeah, and I think Laura was...

BROWNE: Yes! That's what I was remembering. Your wife was very involved in it.

BLANEY: Yeah. And, that's another thing, as a matter of fact. I'm not sure, but I don't think that they're having some of these events anymore.

BROWNE: No.

BLANEY: We used to have a Christmas dinner, and it used to be Faculty Dames, and then changed to University Women. And, one of the other things I forgot to mention was that the Christmas programs, as I recall, that were held sometimes in the Conservatory or...

BROWNE: They're still doing it, but they're doing, like, a march around campus, and then end up in the chapel, I think.

BLANEY: Yeah. Oh, and actually I forgot to mention, Wes Browne was here at that time, too. But, I think that's, yeah.

BROWNE: Ok. And then, do you feel satisfied that we have covered what needs to be covered...

BLANEY: (laughter) I think so, as much as I can remember!

BROWNE: Yeah! Hey, if we did this again, a year from now, it'd be even shorter!

BLANEY: And it did record, huh?

BROWNE: It did—well, the numbers went, which was what was supposed to be the sign for "it's recorded."